

Serial No. 10/064,326

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] The number of parts the housing includes is not essential to the invention. The housing may only include one single housing part which includes the closure member. Preferably, the housing includes first and second housing elements ~~possesses, in addition to the closure member, at least one second housing element.~~ The second housing element includes the closure member. The first housing element ~~closure member~~ is connected to the second housing element by an insertion device, catch device or snap device. The first second housing element may be manufactured from a particularly rigid or impact-resistant material, whereas the second housing element and the closure member ~~and a portion of the housing~~ may be produced from a viscoplastic to hard-rubber material that meets the requirements of the closure member. Preferably, the insertion device, catch device or snap device detachably joins the second housing element ~~closure member~~ with the first housing element. As a result, the second housing element and the closure member ~~may~~ can be completely separated from the first second housing element when, for example, if access to the actuation mechanism becomes necessary for a repair or in order to lubricate the transfer mechanism of the actuation device.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] In the drawings, FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a housing for a gear shifting system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention: [[.]]

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0018]:

[0018.1] FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the housing of FIG. 1; and

[0018.1] FIG. 3 is a side perspective view of the housing of FIG. 1.

Serial No. 10/064,326

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of the present invention. A housing 10 of a bicycle shifter for a bicycle gearing system depicted in the FIG. 1 generally includes two plastic elements, namely a first housing element 12 and a second housing element 14. The first housing element 12 may be made of a hard but impact[[,]] resistant plastic material and substantially assumes the supporting housing functions. The second housing element 14 may be made from a material with viscoplastic to hard-rubber properties. The second housing element 14 may extend (out o the plane of the drawing) over larger regions of the shifter housing, or larger regions of the shifter housing may be made up of a closure member 16.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] In contrast to the closure members for shifter housings known from the existing art, which are movably joined to the shifter housing either by means of a flexural feature or by means of a film hinge or elastomer articulation, the closure member 16 of the shifter housing comprises a flexural region 22 of substantially planar or contoured extension that additionally combines the advantage of easy flexural mobility with high fatigue strength and, in particular, with particularly exact positioning of closure member 16. This means, in other words, that when installation opening 18 is opened and when closure member 16 is lifted away from the installation opening 18, the entire flexural region 22 experiences an elastic flexural deformation that, with suitable dimensioning, results in simple, automatic reclosure of the installation opening as flexural region 22 deforms elastically back.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] In one embodiment of the present invention, the first housing element 12 closure member 16 is joined to [[a]] the second housing element 14 by an insertion device, catch device, or snap device 24. The assembly direction of the device 24 may extend perpendicular to the drawing plane. The insertion device, catch device, or snap device 24

Serial No. 10/064,326

can be configured detachably so that the second housing element 14 and the closure member 16 can be completely removed, for example for the purpose of servicing the shifter mechanism (not shown) accommodated in the shifter housing.